Mountain Weather Forecast

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 until 23:59 on Thursday 31 Dec 2020

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020 at 02:27 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for cold conditions and further snowfall through the period. The main uncertainty relates to the extent of more persistent snow during Wednesday.

Headline for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020: Frequent snowfall, bitterly cold.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability					
60%	70%	80%	80%	50%	50%

Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Weather: Northwest winds will bring a steady flow of snow showers through much of the day, these merging into a longer spell of snow through morning which is likely to bring 5-10cm in a few hours to many northern aspects. Some respite through evening as some cloud breaks develop.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 20% with breaks fleeting and unreliable. Cloud cover often down to 300-500m in and around showers.

Visibility: Often good on sheltered lower slopes across the southern ranges, but very variable at height as snow frequently brings visibility down to a few hundred metres.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Wednesday 30 Dec 2020

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	19/24 NW	24/28 NW	27/34 NW	21/26 N	17/22 N	15/19 NW	17/22 N
900	18/23 NW	22/27 NW	26/33 NW	20/25 N	16/20 N	13/17 NW	15/19 N
600	10/16 NW	15/20 NW	19/26 NW	15/20 N	11/16 N	8/13 N	8/12 N
300	3/18 NW	5/22 NW	9/29 NW	5/21 N	5/17 N	3/15 NW	2/14 N
Glen	4/9 NW	7/16 NW	10/21 NW	10/21 N	6/14 N	6/14 N	5/14 N

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-5/-13	-4/-13	-4/-12	-4/-11	-4/-11	-4/-10	-3/-10
900	-4/-12	-4/-12	-3/-12	-3/-10	-3/-10	-3/-9	-3/-9
600	-2/-8	-2/-8	-2/-8	-1/-7	-2/-6	-2/-6	-1/-5
300	-1/-4	-1/-4	-0/-5	-1/-4	-0/-3	-1/-3	0/-2
Glen	2/-1	2/-1	2/-2	2/-2	2/-0	2/-1	2/-0
Freezing Level*	200m	300m	300m	300m	400m	300m	400m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Best of the limited shelter likely across south facing aspects of Glen Affric and Glen Shiel. Glen temperatures generally closer to minus 2 Celsius at first.

Forecast for Thursday 31 Dec 2020
Weather: Another cold, windy day with snow showers never far away but generally less widespread and not as heavy compared to Wednesday. Some bright or sunny breaks likely between showers leading to glare off the slowly expanding snowfields. Snow will turn to rain at low levels through the day adding to the risk of severe chill.

Maximum wind: North or NW 20-25 gusting 35mph, easing through evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50% south, 30% north. Showers bringing cloud down to 300-500m, but these passing through relatively quickly.

Visibility: Very variable. Snow showers bringing whiteout conditions away from low level. Some lengthy breaks between showers will afford some reasonable views.

Temperature: **Glens:** Around freezing, rising to 2 or 3 C briefly.
At 800m: Minus 3 C.
Freezing level: 300m rising 600m.

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